## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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**ACTION EA-10** 

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 AID-05 OMB-01 /090 W ----- 083446

R 080155Z JUL 75 FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1229 INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST AMEMBASSY TOKYO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE USLO PEKING

CONFIDENTIAL SEOUL 5010

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: OVIP

CINCPAC

SUBJECT: CANCELLATION OF GABON PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO PYONGYANG

REF: SEOUL 4772 (NOTAL)

- 1. MOFA DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS BUREAU HAN U-SOK JULY 7 GAVE POL COUNS FOLLOWING RUN-DOWN ON REASON GABON PRESIDENT BONGO CANCELLED SCHEDULED VISIT TO PYONGYANG.
- 2. ACCORDING HAN, BONGO PERSONALLY TOLD KOREAN AMBASSADOR TO GABON, KIM CHANG-HUN, THAT DURING STOP-OVER IN ROMANIA, BONGO WAS TOLD BY ROMANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER THAT NORTH KOREANS WANTED HIM TO OMIT SEOUL FROM ASIAN TRIP ITINERARY. BONGO LATER DISCUSSED THIS MATTER WITH NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR IN BUCHAREST, WHO INSISTED THAT SEOUL STOP BE DROPPED EVEN THOUGH BONGO REMONSTRATED THAT IT HAD BEEN AGREED BEFOREHAND THAT TRIP WOULD INVOLVE VISITS TO BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA. ANGERED AT NORTH KOREA'S POSITION, BONGO CONFIDENTIAL

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DECIDED TO GO TO SEOUL AND TO CANCEL THE PYONGYANG

VISIT. THERE WAS SOME GRUMBLING IN BONGO'S ENTOURAGE OVER THIS DECISION, BUT GABON FOREIGN MINISTER AND OTHERS STRONGLY SUPPORTED MOVE ON GROUNDS THAT ROK FAR MORE IMPORTANT ECONOMICALLY. SNEIDER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Concepts: HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 08 JUL 1975 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SEOUI 05010

Document Number: 1975SEOUL05010 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A

Film Number: D750234-0836

From: SEOUL

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750776/aaaacqih.tel

Line Count: 66

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Office: ACTION EA Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Classification: CONTIDE VITAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 SEOUL 4772
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 11 JUN 2003

**Review Event:** 

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 JUN 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <21 OCT 2003 by ShawDG>

**Review Markings:** 

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**Review Media Identifier:** Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: CANCELLATION OF GABON PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO PYONGYANG TAGS: OVIP, KS, (BONGO, ALBERT BERNARD)
To: STATE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006